

that, until this Day, Manners of Masons have been kept in this Manner and forme, as well as Men might Gouverne it, and Farther more at diverse Assemblies have been put and Ordained diverse Charges by the best advice of *Masters* and *Fellows*."

All the subsequent manuscripts contain the legend substantially as it is in the *Landsdowne*, and most of them appear to be mere copies of it, or most probably of some original one of which both they and it are copies.

In 1723, Dr. Anderson published the first edition of the book of *Constitutions*, in which the history of the Fraternity of Freemasons is, he says, "celebrated from their general records and their faithful traditions of many ages." He gives the legend, taken, as he says, "from a certain record of Freemasons written in the reign of King Edward IV," which manuscript, Preston asserts, "is said to have been in the possession of the famous Elias Ashmole." As the old manuscripts were generally inaccessible to the Fraternity (and, indeed, until recently, but few of them had been discovered), it is to the publication of the legend by Anderson, and subsequently by Preston, that we are to attribute its general use by the Craft for more than a century and a half. The form of the legend, as given by Anderson in his first and that in his second edition, vary slightly. In the former he places the date of the occurrence at 930; in his second, at 926; in the former, he styles the congregation at York a General Lodge; in his second, a Grand Lodge. Now, as the modern and universally accepted form of the legend agrees in both respects with the former statement, and not with the latter, it must be concluded that the second edition and the subsequent ones by Entick and Northouck, who only repeat Anderson, furnished the form of the legend as now popular.

In the second edition of the *Constitutions* (p. 62), published in 1738, Anderson gives the legend in the following words:

"In all the old Constitutions, it is written to this purpose, viz.:

"That though the antient records of the Brotherhood in England, were most of them destroyed or lost in the war with the Danes, who burnt the Monasteries where the records were kept; yet King Athelstan (the Grandson of King Alfred) the first annointed King of England, who translated the Holy Bible into the Saxon language, when he had brought the land into rest and peace, built many great works, and encouraged many Masons from France and elsewhere, whom he appointed overseers thereof; they brought with them the Charges and Regulations of the foreign Lodges, and prevail'd with the King to increase the wages.

"That Prince Edwin, the King's Brother, being taught Geometery and Masonry, for the love he had to the said Craft, and to the honorable principles whereon it is grounded, purchased a Free Charter of King Athelstan his Brother, for the Free Masons having among themselves a Correction, or a power and freedom to regulate themselves, to amend what might happen amiss, and to hold an yearly Communication in a General Assembly.

"That accordingly Prince Edwin summoned all the Free and Accepted Masons in the Realm, to meet him in the Congregation at York, who came and formed the Grand Lodge under him as their Grand Master, A. D. 926.

"That they brought with them many old Writings and Records of the Craft, some in Greek, some in Latin, some in French, and other